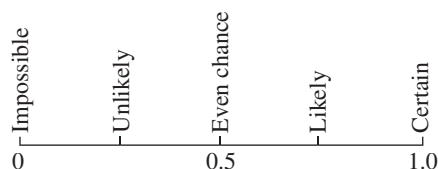




SKILLSHEET 14.1

Understanding chance words

Most everyday events could be described as either certain, likely, even chance (fifty-fifty), unlikely, or impossible to occur. On the probability scale these can be shown as follows:



WORKED EXAMPLE

Describe the probability of each of the following events occurring, using the words certain, likely, even chance, unlikely, or impossible.

- a You roll a standard die and a number larger than 3 appears uppermost.
- b You draw a card from a standard deck of playing cards and it is the 11 of spades.

THINK

- a Of the six numbers on a standard die (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6), half are greater than 3. So I am just as likely to obtain a number larger than 3 as I am to obtain a number that is 3 or less.
- b In a standard deck the number cards are numbered from 2 to 10, so it is impossible to draw an 11, as there is no such card in any suit.

WRITE

- a There is an even chance that this event will occur.
- b It is impossible for this event to occur.

Try these

Describe the probability of each of the following events occurring using the words certain, likely, even chance, unlikely or impossible.

- 1 There will be a leap year in 2012.
- 2 A card drawn from a standard deck of playing cards will be a picture card.
- 3 A fair die is rolled and the number that appears uppermost is greater than 1.
- 4 Two fair dice are rolled and the sum of the numbers that appear uppermost is 13.
- 5 Tonight there will be a weather update on the 6 o'clock news.
- 6 Half of the students in your class will be late to school tomorrow morning.
- 7 You will be studying Mathematics next year.
- 8 A pink marble is drawn from a bag containing 3 red and 4 yellow marbles.
- 9 A red marble is drawn from a bag containing 2 red and 6 green marbles.
- 10 A fair die is rolled twice. The sum of the numbers that appear uppermost will be greater than 1.
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SKILLSHEET — ANSWERS

SKILLSHEET 14.1

Understanding chance words

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1 Certain | 2 Unlikely |
| 3 Likely | 4 Impossible |
| 5 Certain | 6 Unlikely |
| 7 Certain | 8 Impossible |
| 9 Unlikely | 10 Certain |